

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims replaces all previous claims listings::

1. (Currently Amended) A method for sensing the context of an electronic device, the method comprising:  
receiving contact information from a subset of touch sensors of a plurality of touch sensors of the electronic device;  
correlating the subset of touch sensor contact information to a predetermined grip; and  
determining an operational mode indicated by the correlated predetermined grip.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of determining a contextual characteristic of the device in relation to a foreign object in response to receiving the contact information.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of determining a contextual characteristic of the device in relation to a user.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving contact information further comprises selectively receiving a plurality of signals from a plurality of touch sensors which represent the contact pattern.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the step of receiving contact information further comprises selectively receiving a signal from a context sensors which senses the proximity of a foreign object.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of determining a contextual characteristic further comprises receiving signals from a context sensor which is any one of an infrared sensor, an ambient light sensor, a camera, a microphone, a radio frequency signal sensor, radio system signal strength detection circuit.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of executing a function based on the received signal from the context sensor and the contact information.
8. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the contextual characteristic is one of a plurality of predetermined configurations in which the device is held by the user.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, executing a first function which corresponds to a first contact pattern and in response the device operating in a first operation mode.
10. (previously Amended) The method of claim 9, adjusting a level of a user interface of the device to a first level in response to a first contact pattern and a first operation mode, and adjusting the user interface to a second level in response to a second contact pattern and the first operation mode.
11. (previously Amended) The method of claim 9, activating a first user interface in response to a first contact pattern and a first operation mode, and deactivating the first user interface in response to a second contact pattern and the first operation mode.

12. (previously Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the user interface is one of a display, a speaker, haptic feedback device, a microphone, a camera, a keypad, or a touch screen.
13. (previously Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein a user interface is one of a display, a speaker, haptic feedback device, a microphone, a camera, a keypad, or a touch screen.
14. (Original) The method of claim 9, turning on a speaker phone in response to a first contact pattern and a first operation mode, and turning on an earphone speaker in response to a second contact pattern and the first operation mode.
15. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of determining a contextual characteristic of the device in relation to a foreign object in response to receiving the contact information.
16. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of determining a contextual characteristic of the device in relation to a user.
17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving contact information further comprises selectively receiving a plurality of signals from a plurality of touch sensors which represent the contact pattern.

18. (previously Amended) A method for sensing the context of an electronic device, the method comprising:

receiving touch sensor information from at least a subset of touch sensors for a plurality of touch sensors;

determining a contact pattern which corresponds to the subset of touch sensors;

receiving contextual information at the device;

determining the position of the device relative to a foreign object based on the contact pattern;

determining a function operational in response to the position of the device and the received contextual information; and

executing the function.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, determining the position of the device relative to a user's body.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18, receiving touch sensor information from at least a subset of touch sensors for a plurality of touch sensors that indicate that a user is holding the device in a first gripping configuration.

21. (Original) A method in a wireless communication device comprising:

receiving a plurality of input signals from corresponding capacitive touch sensors carried on a housing of the wireless communication device;

determining a touch pattern corresponding to the plurality of input signals received from the capacitive touch sensors;

determining a relative position to a foreign object; and

activating an event in response to receiving the plurality of input signals and the motion input signal.

22. (previously Amended) An electronic device comprising:

a housing;

a microprocessor;

a plurality of touch sensors carried on the housing an activatable from the exterior of the housing, wherein the location of each touch sensor of the plurality of touch sensors is configured to determine the position of foreign objects relative to the housing; and

a context sensor module coupled to the microprocessor and receiving input from the plurality of touch sensors.

23. (Original) The device of claim 22, wherein a first touch sensor is on a first side of the device.

24. (Original) The device of claim 23, wherein a second touch sensor is carried on a second side of the housing.

25. (previously Amended) The device of claim 24, wherein the first side is one of a left, right, top, bottom, from or back side of the device, and wherein the second side is one of a left, right, top bottom, from or back side of the device, whichever the first side is not.

26. (Original) The device of claim 25, wherein the touch sensor is a capacitive touch sensor.